Catechism of the Catholic Church

Catechism = catechesis – instruction in the truth of our faith [oral and written]

The Catechism of the Catholic Church is rooted in

Scripture and Tradition

Kerygma – preaching of the apostles and evangelists.

“Didache”, “Q document” The “L” and “M” documents

Writings and proclamations of the Church Fathers: St. Basil the Great,

St. Gregory of Nyssa, St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas…

Teachings of Church Councils, especially the twenty- three ecumenical councils.

- these were often called to settle disputes that arose in the church over the centuries

The [Catechism of the Council of Trent](http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/13120c.htm) (*Catechismus Romanus*) is not a catechism in the ordinary sense of the word. It is rather a manual of instruction for the [clergy](http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/04049b.htm)  (*Catechismus ad Parochos*) to enable them to catechize those entrusted to their spiritual care. ( Circa 1566 )

The Council intended the projected Catechism to be the [Church's](http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/03744a.htm) official manual of popular instruction.

It is divided in four parts:

I. The [Apostles' Creed](http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/01629a.htm);   
 II. The Sacraments;   
 III. The [Decalogue](http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/04664a.htm);   
 IV. [Prayer](http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/12345b.htm), especially The [Lord's Prayer](http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/09356a.htm).

Code of Canon Law

Baltimore Catechism and other national books of instruction were produced in the 18th century in response to numerous challenges to the teaching of the church.

These early manuals of instruction expected all Catholic (especially children) to know by memory Lord’s Prayer, Hail Mary, Ten Commandments, Seven Sacraments, the Precepts of the Church and the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy

Catechisms that were produced locally must contain a seal of a local bishop

known as the Imprimatur and indicating that this document has Nihil Obstat – no obstacles to the truth of the faith.

A catechism is of the greatest use both to the teacher and the scholar. To the teacher it is a guide as to the subjects to be taught, the order of dealing with them, and the choice of words in which the instruction should be conveyed; above all, it is the best means of securing uniformity and correctness of doctrinal and moral teaching.

In the scheme of things we have a wide variety of expressions within our Catholic communion.

Conservative – strict translation of original documents

Liberal-attempted to interpret ideas according to the present situation of the faithful

These expressions developed because of the variety of scholarship in various countries. Some theologians, bishops and priests hold varying ideas about what the Church teaches and believes.

Challenges: How to teach the truths of the Catholic faith:

Great Schism – 1054

Second Great Schism- 1378-1415

* three popes

Rome   *Nicholas V, Urban VI, Boniface IX,*

Avignon *Clem VII, Alexander V, John XXIII*

Third Pope *Benedict XIII, Greg XII*

*In 1415 Martin V was elected the Pope and all others declared imposters at a Council*

Protestant Reformation – 1521 ff

French Revolution –

Industrial Revolution

Enlightenment

The Catechism of Catholic Church